

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Austria (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Rising Oil Production in ITAG-Rannersdorf Fields

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As previously reported [REDACTED] Comment: See [REDACTED], production of the ITAG-Rannersdorf (SEB III) fields was raised from 110 to 140 tons daily by virtue of improvements in the handling of individual wells. The Oil Staff, early in May 1948, set a standard of 144 tons as the goal; but, by means of a so-called "gas anchor" (Gasanker), the fields have been producing an average of 175 tons daily for the past few days. Engineers and drill foremen from surrounding fields have shown great interest in the increased production of these fields; but, apparently, information as to the methods used has not been communicated to them by the Oil Staff. There is no assurance that even with this device the wells will long be able to continue production at this level. [REDACTED] Comment: A gas anchor is not a new device. It consists of a series of pipes, one inside the other, which take in the crude oil and gas through a sieve-like apparatus in the earth, separate them, and convey them separately to the surface, where they are allowed to emerge together under a regulated gas pressure, thus avoiding wanton and complete depressurization of the area.)

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